

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/537,835

Examiner

Thien D Tran

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

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2665

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/13/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22, 24-36, 109, 37-45, 47, 46, 48-56, 110, 57-87, 111, 88-94, 97-108, 112 renumbered 1-109 respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 March 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory Hunt on 03/02/2005.

Claims are amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 21, change "network element" to become "module";

Claim 57, line 19, change "network element" to become "first module";

Claim 88, line 22, change "network" to become "first";

Claim 88, line 23, change "element" to become "module".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1 and 57, the prior arts fail to teach or fairly suggest a network element for providing service control point (SCP) or database node front end processing (FEP) and routing data packets through a communication network, the network element comprising: a second module for receiving the data packet and for forwarding the data packet to one of a plurality of SCP or database nodes being separate from a second

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module and being without individual front end processors, in combination with other limitations as specified in the independent claims 1 and 57.

Regarding claim 37, the prior arts fail to teach or fairly suggest a method for providing service control point (SCP) or database node front end processing (FEP) service and for routing a data packet in a communications network, the method comprising: providing, from a first network element having a first SS7 point code (PC), FEP service for a plurality of SCP being separate from the first network element and being without individual front end processors, in combination with other limitations as specified in the independent claim 37.

Regarding claim 88, the prior arts fail to teach or fairly suggest a network routing element for routing signaling messages having a first signaling system 7 (SS7) network address, the network routing element being adapted to receive messages addressed to the first SS7 network address intended for processing by a service control point (SCP) or database node that resides in an Internet protocol (IP) network, the network routing element comprising: a second module for receiving the data packet and for forwarding the data packet to one of a plurality of SCP or database nodes in the second communications network, the SCP or database nodes being separate from the network element and being without individual front end processors, in combination with other limitations as specified in the independent claim 88.

Conclusion

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Thien Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3156. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (571) 272-3155. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.

Patent Examiner

Thien Tran

DUCHO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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3-4-05